Subject:	FW: New submission from Research Form

From: The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>
Sent: Wednesday 20 December 2023 13:45
To: ELC Research <research@electoralcommission.ie>
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1. What is your view on the five proposed research strands? Are there amendments or additions you would suggest?

The Terms of Reference include consideration of the nature, prevalence and impact of abuse, including on-line abuse, and harassment of those who participate in political life within the Irish context. The Task Force has identified the need, in the Irish context, for comprehensive research to fill in existing information gaps regarding the prevalence of harassment, abuse, and intimidation (HAI) of public representatives at all levels and candidates for political office, including the prevalence of HAI on social media. In addition research is required on the impact of HAI and, particularly with respect to the consequences of HAI of women and minority groups, and whether it deters these groups from political participation.

As such, the Task Force submits that the Electoral Commission develop a comprehensive data collection, monitoring and research programme that builds an in-depth understanding of the scale of HAI, including on-line, to politicians, at national and local level, and political candidates, including the targeting women and minority groups. This research is relevant under Strands A and D of the proposed research programme.

3. Are there additional research projects that you consider important to promote and enhance Ireland's democracy and electoral events? If yes, please specify?

The proposed inclusion of research on HAI against politicians and political candidates is an important tool to assist in safeguarding democracy and addressing barriers to political inclusivity and participation.

Name

Brid Dunne

Email

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Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?

I represent an Organisation

Name of Organisation

Houses of the Oireachtas Task Force on Safe Participation in Political Life